



ISSUE 2 AUGUST 2007

Welcome to the second issue of British Waterways' Bow Back Rivers Bulletin, updating you on works to restore Stratford's canals and rivers.

[www.britishwaterways.co.uk/olympics](http://www.britishwaterways.co.uk/olympics)



## PRESCOTT LOCK UPDATE

Piling work is progressing well on Prescott Channel, with the channel widening phase complete and work now underway to create the lock island. The lock island, lock chamber and two weirs will be created in sequence by first constructing a watertight cofferdam (temporary dam) with sheet piles to create a safe working environment.

As piling continues, accumulated construction waste is being taken away, largely made up of

ground excavated from the channel widening work.

In the last month, a new temporary footbridge has been built for construction workers to use and the footbridge at the downstream end of Prescott Channel will shortly be removed. This bridge was made famous in the first series of 'Big Brother' as it was the bridge evicted housemates crossed to reach the outside world.

Mark Stephens, British Waterways project manager, explains: "The bridge has to be removed because it has very low head room and so would restrict barges travelling up the channel. A new footbridge will be built a little further north as part of the lock works and will open in September next year."



### Project Milestones

- July 07  
Piling for channel widening largely complete
- August 07  
Coffer dam for lock chamber works in place
- Autumn 07  
Coffer dam for first weir in place
- Early 2008  
Lock gate installation complete and tidal lock out achieved
- August 08  
Lock commissioned and open to traffic
- September 08  
Footbridge and paths reopen to public

Installing ground anchors to support the new river walls at the Prescott Lock construction site

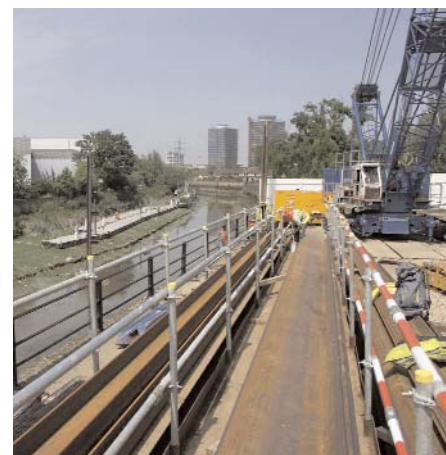
## CONSIDERATE CONSTRUCTION

Volker Stevin Ltd is British Waterways' main contractor responsible for the works currently underway on Prescott Channel and Three Mills Wall River. The organisation set up its site offices and works compound next to Three Mills Green in March.

Windsor Young, Volker Stevin's project manager, says: "We and our contractors are delighted to be involved with the improvements being made to the area's waterways. During the course of the works, we are taking all reasonable and practical measures to limit noise, vibration, dust and inconvenience for our

neighbours and have registered the project with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. "As well as nearby homes, we've been particularly keen not to disturb filming taking place at 3 Mills Studios. To achieve this, we've established a contact protocol which works for both of us, so we can time the intermittent piling noise around filming sessions."

To find out more about Volker Stevin visit [www.volkerstevin.co.uk](http://www.volkerstevin.co.uk). To contact the Prescott Lock team call 020 8555 7589 or write to Volker Stevin Ltd, Sugar House Lane, London E15 2QS.



Preparation for piling on Three Mills Wall River

# TOWPATH RESTRICTIONS



On 2 July, the towpaths and navigations which form part of the Olympic Park were closed to public access and will not reopen until after the 2012 Games. These include the waterways which make up the Bow Back Rivers: the Old River Lea, City Mill River, Waterworks River, Bow Back River and Pudding Mill River.

The closure will help to ensure public safety and a secure working environment throughout the major works planned for the area. The River Lee Navigation and its towpath will remain open, except for temporary closures for works and construction activity for the Olympic Park. Prior notice will be given via British Waterways' website.

In addition to using Prescott Channel and Waterworks River, the Olympic Delivery Authority and British Waterways are also encouraging the use of the River Lee Navigation to deliver materials to the Olympic Park. This may lead to short sections of towpath or waterway being temporarily controlled. For more information about closures, visit [www.waterscape.com](http://www.waterscape.com) or call British Waterways London on 020 7985 7200.

## Key to Map

- Navigation closed except for construction works and games
- Navigation closed except for construction traffic due to start Aug 08
- Towpath closed until after 2012 games
- Towpath closed for Prescott Lock works until Sep 08

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF WATER

Work started in April on the supporting water control structure on Three Mills Wall River. Again cofferdams need to be created here using sheet piles before work can be done to install the weir. The first of two cofferdams is already in place and the weir is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The additional weir is needed to control water above the House Mill, helping to maintain a navigable depth on Prescott Channel and Waterworks River. This weir and those on Prescott Channel will ensure enough water is provided to power the House Mill's wheels, which the River Lea Tidal Mill Trust Ltd is

planning to restore.

The Grade I listed House Mill is believed to be the largest remaining tide mill in the world. Although mills have been on this site, or nearby, since the DomEsday Book, the House Mill was originally built in 1776 capturing the power of both tidal and river water which turned four large wheels, driving 12 pairs of millstones. The House Mill ground grain, not for bread, but for gin produced by the famous Nicholson's Gin Distillery on the same site.

The House Mill ceased milling in 1941 and less than 50 years later the Trust began work to restore the fabric of the mill building. That work

is now finished and as well as running a thriving visitor and education centre and an oral history group, the Trust is now focussing on the next phase of the Mill's restoration. This looks at the water wheels and milling machinery and a complete interpretation of the mill, its workings and its place in East London's industrial heritage.

John Haggerty, Chairman of the Tidal Mill Trust, explains: "The works currently underway to restore navigation on the Bow Back Rivers offers the Trust the opportunity to give life to our exciting plans to restore the House Mill's water wheels. We want to restore the wheels so that traditional milling can be demonstrated and at the same time use the power of the wheels to produce hydro- electricity. The Trust intends to restore all four wheels back to their original working condition. One wheel will work in exactly the same way it used to - grinding grain and will be demonstrated for education and interpretation purposes. The remaining three wheels will be used for power generation. These will be supplemented with six or more polymer turbines linking 18th century technology with that of the 21st century, creating enough power to supply a small village and provide a unique educational resource."



The House Mill is open for guided tours by volunteers from 1-4pm every Sundays from May until the end of October. For more information about the House Mill and for volunteering opportunities visit [www.housemill.org.uk](http://www.housemill.org.uk), call 020 8980 4626 or pop into the café which is open on weekdays from 10am - 3pm and on Sundays 1-4pm (closed Saturdays)

Left to right: The House Mill, The Miller's House and The Clock Mill